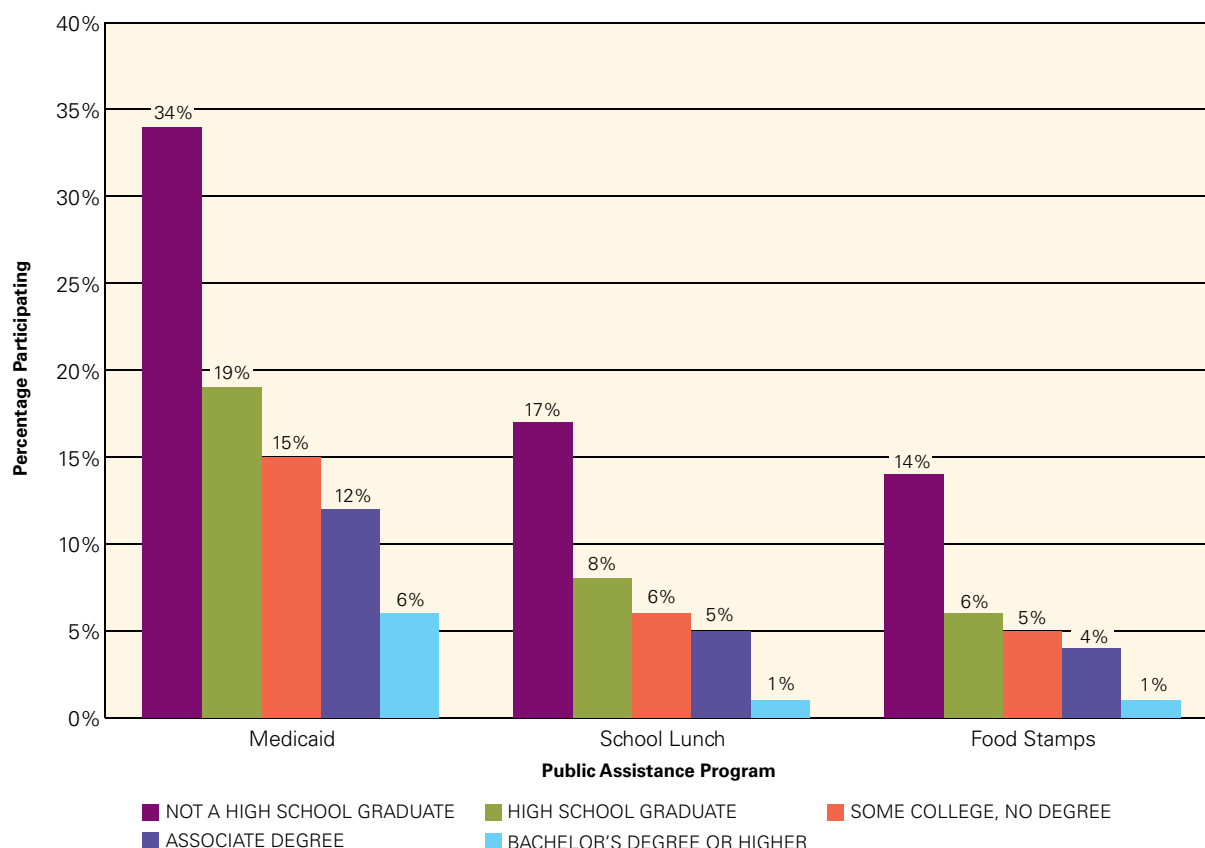


# Public Assistance Programs

**Figure 1.12:** Percentage of Individuals Ages 25 and Older Living in Households That Participated in Public Assistance Programs, by Education Level, 2005



**Sources:** U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Survey, 2006 Annual Social and Economic Supplement*; calculations by the authors.

Individuals with higher levels of education are less likely than others to live in households that participate in social support programs.

- In 2005, 19 percent of high school graduates, 15 percent of those with some college but no degree, 12 percent of those with an associate degree, and 6 percent of bachelor's degree recipients lived in households that participated in Medicaid.
- Eight percent of high school graduates, 6 percent of those with some college but no degree, 5 percent of those with an associate degree, and only 1 percent of bachelor's degree recipients lived in households that participated in the National School Lunch Program (a federally assisted meal program that provides free or reduced-price lunches to eligible school children).
- Six percent of high school graduates, 5 percent of those with some college but no degree, 4 percent of those with an associate degree, and only 1 percent of bachelor's degree recipients lived in households that received food stamps.

## Also important:

In 2005, the average annual food stamp benefits were \$1,112 per recipient and the nonadministrative cost of the school lunch program was \$238 per student (U.S. Census Bureau, 2007, Table 556). Medicaid expenditures per recipient averaged \$4,487 in 2003 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2007, Table 138).